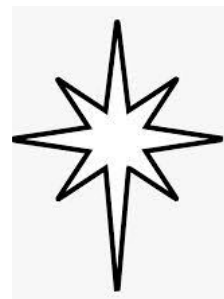
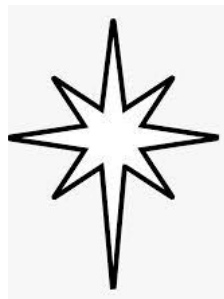


St. John Vianney Church

December 24 & 25, 2023

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord



Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA, Pastor

Fr. Chris Haake, Parochial Vicar

Mass: Sunday 8:00 AM Wednesday 5:30 PM

Reconciliation: Sunday 7:30 AM to 7:50 AM

PO Box 183, 313 S West St Cambridge IL 61238

Phone: 309-937-3304 Email: stjohnvianney3@gmail.com

www.threestjohns.com

www.facebook.com/stjohnvianneycambridge

Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA: Email: frghislain@saintjohnpaulii-kewanee.org

PO Box 249, 390 E Highway Ave, Woodhull IL 61490 - 309-852-4549 Ext 106

Fr. Chris Haake: Email: fatherhaake@saintjohnpaulii-kewanee.org

406 W. Central Blvd, Kewanee IL 61443- 309-852-4549 Ext 118

Religious Education: Terri Borkgren 309-945-2628

Greeting Cards: Mary Kay Newman: 309-944-7032

Parish Secretary: Rita Taylor 309-714-8278

St John, The Apostle

Mass Sunday 5:00 PM

PO Box 249 390 E Highway Ave

Woodhull IL 61490

Phone: 309-334-2180 Fax: 309-334-2136

Secretary: Tena Anseeuw

stjohnchurch@divcominc.net

St John, The Evangelist

Mass Saturday 4 PM | Sunday 10:00 AM

PO Box 18 212 NE 1st St

Galva IL 61434

Phone: 309-932-2409

Secretary: Linda Simmons

stjohngalva2@gmail.com

Date	Mass Intentions	Given By
Dec 24 4:00 PM Sunday	For: Vincent Carroll	By: Dwaine & Janice VanMeenen
Dec 25 8:00 AM Monday	For: Joan Dobbels	By: Kathy Johnson
Dec 27 5:30 PM Wednesday	For: Carolyn Ossian	By: The Family
Dec 31 8:00 AM Sunday	For: Richard Nichols For: Jeff Nichols	By: Phil & Paula Steele By: Ruthann Nichols

Serving at Our Lord's Altar

Lay Ministry Schedule for December 24-31, 2023		
Sunday,	December 24	4:00 PM
Extra Min:	Brian & Julie Dwyer	
Lector:	Chris DeKezel	
Monday,	December 25	8:00 AM
Extra Min:	Leonard Boelens & Larry Lavin	
Lector:	Don Hulin	
Wednesday,	December 27	5:30 PM
Lector & Server Volunteers		
Sunday	December 31	8:00 AM
Extra Min:	Bill Taylor	
Lector:	Brian Dwyer	
USHERS		
Dec:	Josh Gibson & Christian Jackson	
COUNTERS		
Dec:	Clyde & Kaye Maertens	

Other Weekday Masses:

Woodhull: 8:00 AM Tuesday & Thursday Galva: 8:00 AM Wednesday

For Prayer Chain requests contact:

Terri Borkgren: 309-945-2628 or Julie Dwyer: 309-507-1627

Merry Christmas

May God bless you and your families with His love this Christmas and always.

Dates to Remember:

Jan 14: Coffee hour after 8:00 AM Mass

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Xander Carlson, Donna Dobbels, Tom Montgomery, Ron Swanson, Mary Lou Robinson, Robert Franck & Judy Brockway Skelton. Please pray for the sick, their loved ones, and caregivers. May they never lose sight of the love of God.



ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

Before going into the hospital, please call Fr. Ghislain at 309-852-4549. If you are admitted to the hospital or nursing home prior to Fr. Ghislain anointing you, please tell admittance that you are Catholic. They will arrange for the designated chaplain to anoint you and will notify Fr. Ghislain.

Many Thanks go to Janice & Dwaine VanMeenen for giving their time and talent to decorate the altar and church with the beautiful poinsettias.



We Thank You Lord for the gift of your Son, Jesus, and for blessing us with the opportunity to worship together this Christmas as a parish family. Fill our hearts with the peace and love that only You can provide in this world. Amen

“A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.” Psalm 97

Trivia Question (answer on last page)

What is a heavenly host? a) an angel army
b) an angel choir c) an angel at the gate of heaven
d) none of the above

Last Week's Gifts to God



December 17, 2023

Collection: \$ 647.00
Building Fund: \$ 410.00
Sunday Total: \$ 1,057.00

Weekly Offering



Weekly Envelopes

Your 2024 Weekly Offering Envelopes are available on the card table at the back of the church. Please pick up yours today.

Jesus, the Light of the World



The Wish of Pope Francis

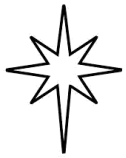
“In turning on the light of the Christmas tree, we wish for the light of Christ to be in us. A Christmas without light is not Christmas. Let there be light in the soul, in the heart, let there be forgiveness to others; let there be no hostilities or darkness. Let there be the beautiful light of Jesus. This is my wish for all of you, when you turn on the light of the Christmas tree.” Let there be light!



A Christmas Prayer

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word, that we may bring your light to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Glory to God in the Highest



For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is the Messiah and Lord, and this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, and suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest”. We are all very familiar with the report of Jesus’ birth. We know about the multitude singing, and we are aware of how the shepherds came from the fields to see and worship the child. On this glorious day we are the heavenly host singing and we in a sense are the shepherds who kneel in admiration of this child. This child is like none other. We know that every child changes the world in his or her own way. But the birth of Jesus, the Son of God and the son of Mary does more than change the world. He changes our lives completely. He comes to save us. He comes to embrace us. And He invites each of us to embrace Him.

The Second Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews complements and affirms the feelings expressed in Isaiah. The writer makes it clear that Jesus is God and that today marks the beginning of salvation for us. This passage from Hebrews parallels our Gospel today in that it is the opening words of the letter to the Hebrews. The first word is “God” as that is where it all begins. God speaks to us in the birth of Jesus, and the author of the letter uses a word to describe Jesus that may be foreign to us: the author speaks of the “refulgence of his glory.” Refulgence means brightness or radiance. The original Greek word from which this is translated is *apaugasma*. That means brightness beyond our understanding. It is as if we cannot see or look upon the Lord — only through the light of Jesus His Son.

Today’s Gospel Reading, which is the opening statement of John’s Gospel, describes Jesus’ birth: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him. And without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life; and this life was the light of the human race: the light shines in the darkness.” On this magnificent Christmas Day we receive the life, and we receive His light. It is no wonder that all our readings reflect that life and that light and the joy that results. Just listen to the words and phrases we find in the First Reading from Isaiah. These are perfect descriptions of what we should feel on this day: “beautiful; glad tidings; peace; good news; salvation; shout for joy; break out in song.” What a summary of this day!

The Gospel, as explained previously, speaks of the Christ child in a way that is not found in the other Gospels. Jesus is the Word incarnate. If we review what we know about Jesus, we might say He was from Nazareth or He was born in Bethlehem, or He is descended from Abraham through David. However, John wants us to understand that Jesus has come to us directly from God as He is One with God. He is the Word. Toward the end of His Gospel John states of his Gospel: “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” Today is a day of life and light. It is truly a day on which we must proclaim “Glory to God in the highest.”

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